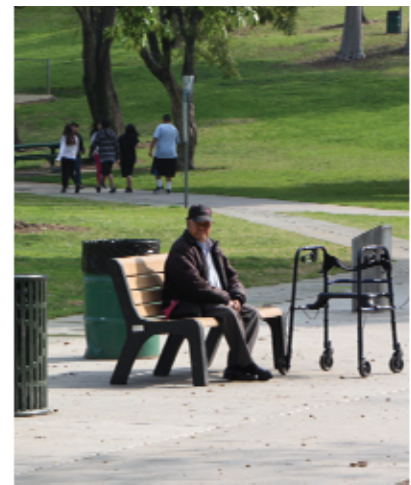
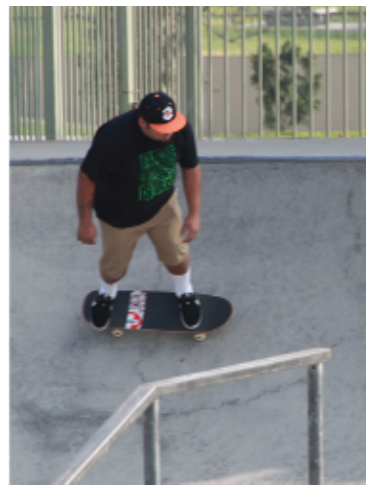


we all need  
**PARKS**  
for healthy, thriving and engaged communities

# Park Funding and Needs in LA County

Informational Meeting  
May 2016



# Welcome and Introductions

- Facilitator:

- Alina Bokde,  
*Executive Director,*  
*Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust*



# Why We're Here Today

- To provide information about how parks and recreational facilities in LA County are funded
- To share the results of the first-ever Countywide Park and Recreation Needs Assessment
- To provide information about a potential park funding ballot measure

# Agenda

- History and Impact of Proposition A (1992, 1996)
- History of Proposition P (2014)
- Countywide Park and Recreation Needs Assessment (2015-2016)
- Potential Park Funding Ballot Measure (2016)
- Next Steps



# History of Proposition A

- In 1992 and again in 1996, LA County voters approved **Proposition A** to invest in parks and recreation projects throughout the county.
- Prop A did two things:
  - 1) Created the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
  - 2) Approved an annual property tax for virtually all parcels of real property in LA County



# Impact of Prop A – Dedicated Local Park Funding

- For the past 24 years, our community has relied on this local, voter-approved funding to protect and maintain our **neighborhood parks, outdoor spaces, and water resources.**
- This **\$1.5 BILLION** investment has provided LA County with:



**328**

new children's play areas



**350**

new and refurbished  
recreation, senior, community  
and nature centers



**33,000**

acres (approx.) permanently  
converted to parks  
or open space



**110**

water quality and water supply  
enhancement projects



**175**

tree planting projects (10,000  
trees planted)



**200**

restrooms added or refurbished

# Dedicated Local Funding is Expiring



- The 1992 Prop A expired in 2015.
- The 1996 Prop A will expire in 2019.
- With the loss of the 1992 Prop A, LA County **lost** an average of **\$60 million** annually.
- If the 1996 Prop A is allowed to expire, that's an ***additional*** **\$21 million lost** annually.

# Proposition P (2014)

- Because of Prop A's impending expiration, the County Board of Supervisors placed **Proposition P** on the ballot in 2014 to renew countywide park funding.

COUNTY MEASURE			
P	SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, GANG PREVENTION,	184	YES → <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	YOUTH/SENIOR RECREATION, BEACHES/WILDLIFE PROTECTION		
	MEASURE. To ensure continued funding from an expiring	185	NO → <input type="checkbox"/>
voter-approved measure for improving the safety of neighborhood parks and senior/youth recreation areas; assisting in gang prevention; protecting rivers, beaches, water sources; repairing, acquiring/preserving parks/natural areas; maintaining zoos, museums; providing youth job-training, shall Los Angeles County levy an annual \$23/parcel special tax, requiring annual independent financial audits and all funds used locally?			

- Prop P received 62% voter support, **just short** of the 66% needed for passage.



# Need to Identify Park Needs

- One of the main critiques of Prop P was that there was no public process for **identifying park projects to be prioritized** for funding.
- Therefore, in February 2015, **Supervisors Michael D. Antonovich and Mark Ridley-Thomas** introduced a motion to invest **\$3.5 million** for the County to develop the first ever **Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment**.



# Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (2015-2016)



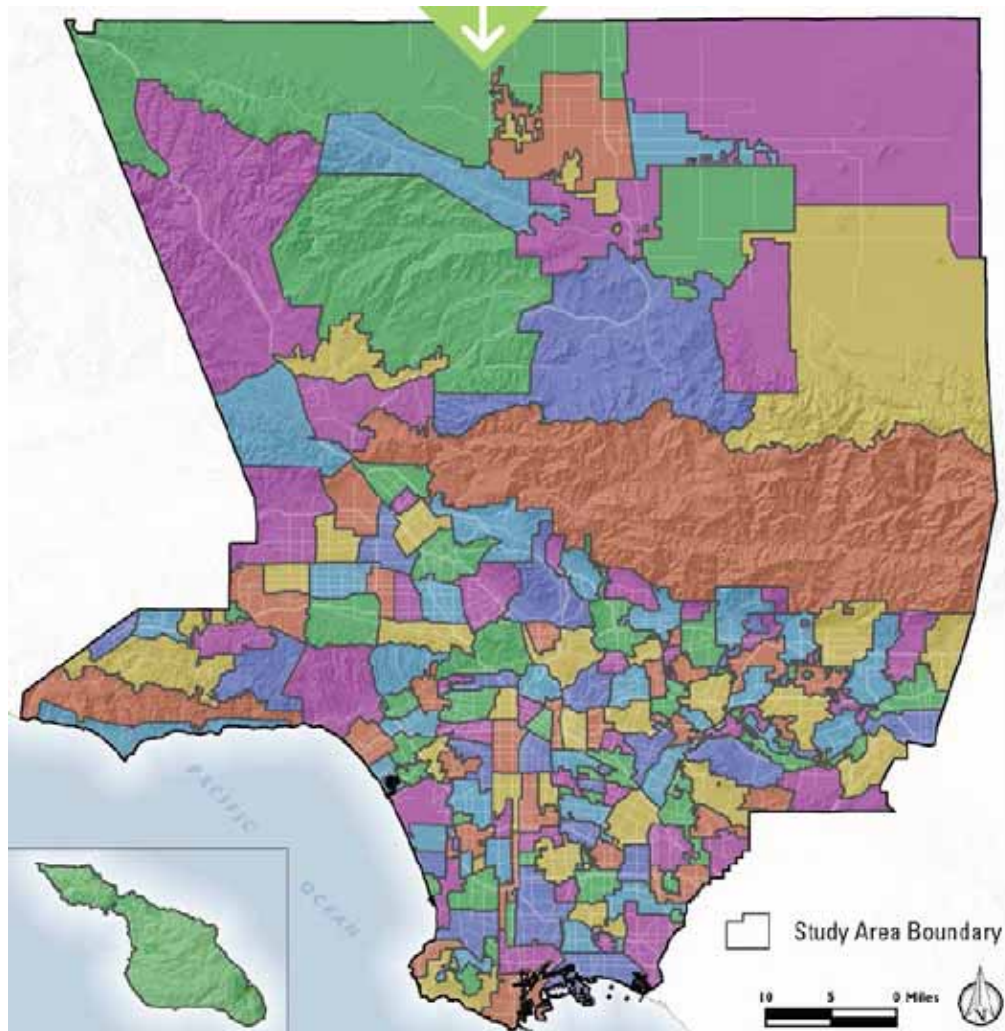
- Considers parks and open space as **key infrastructure** needed to maintain and improve the **quality of life** for all County residents
- Uses a new series of **metrics** to determine **park need**
- Emphasizes both **community priorities** and **deferred maintenance projects**

# Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (2015-2016)





# Study Areas and Inventory

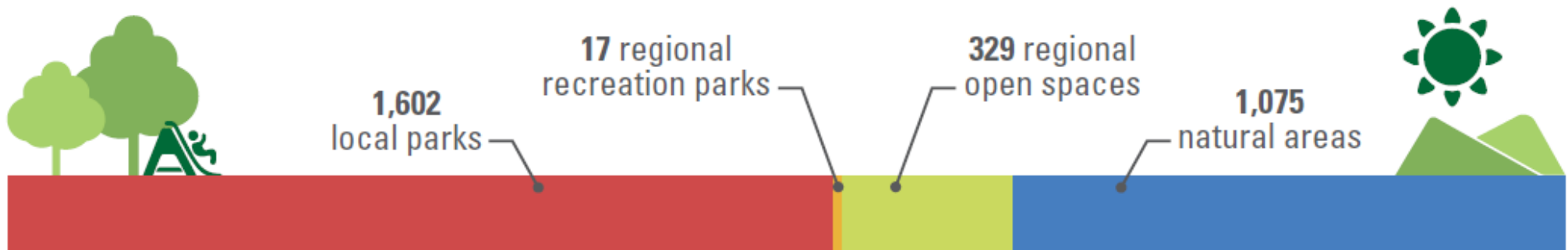
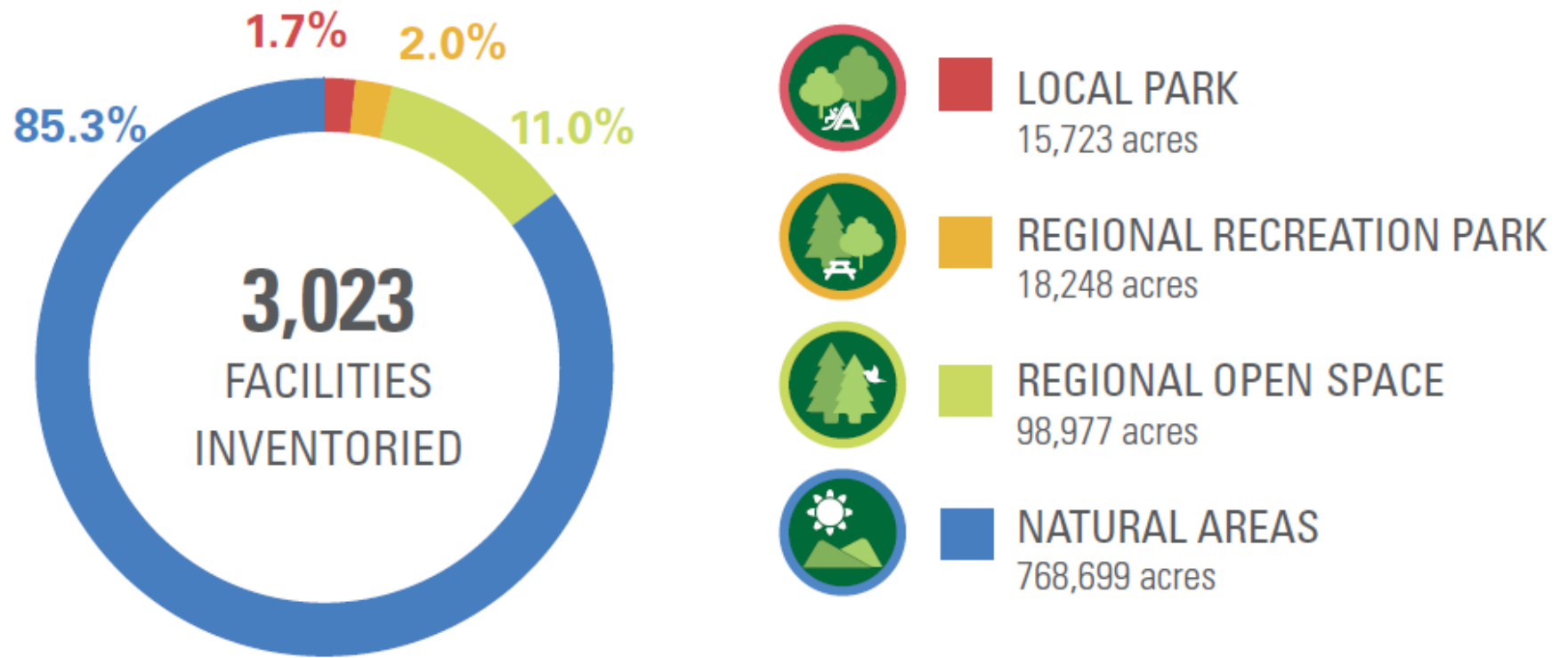


188 study areas





# Inventory



# Park Metrics



Park  
Condition



Park  
Access



Park  
Amenities



Park  
Land



Park  
Pressure

# Park Metrics

- *How much park land is in the County?*

**3.3 ACRES**

Local & Regional Recreation Park per 1,000 persons



- *How much land is available to residents in the area around each park?*

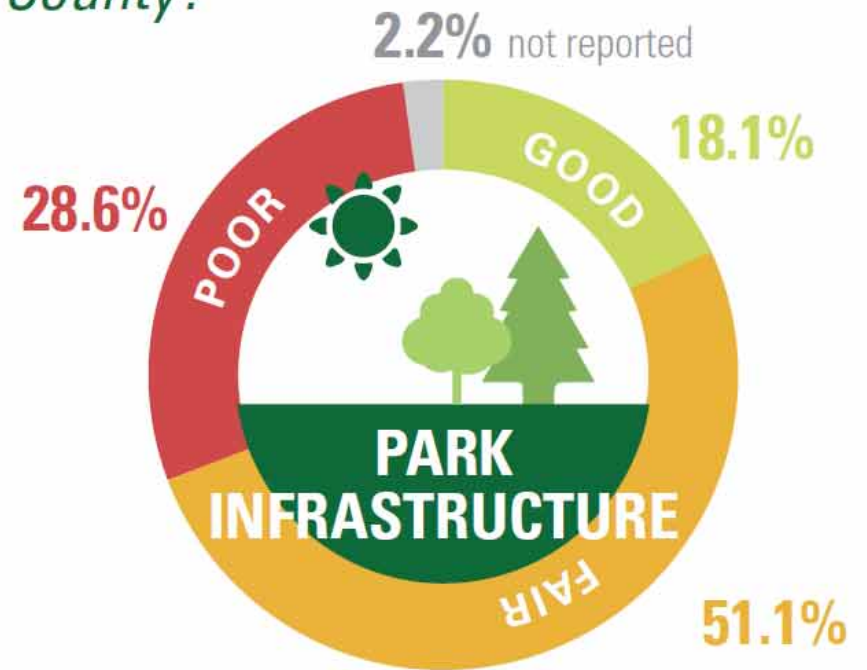
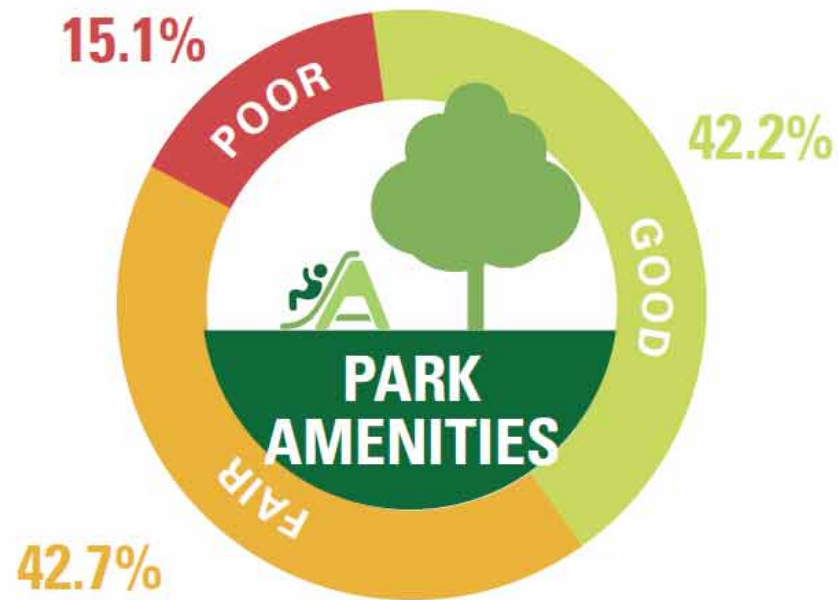
Low park pressure at  
**20%**  
of parks in the County



High park pressure at  
**80%**  
of parks in the County

# Park Metrics

- *What is the condition of the parks in the County?*



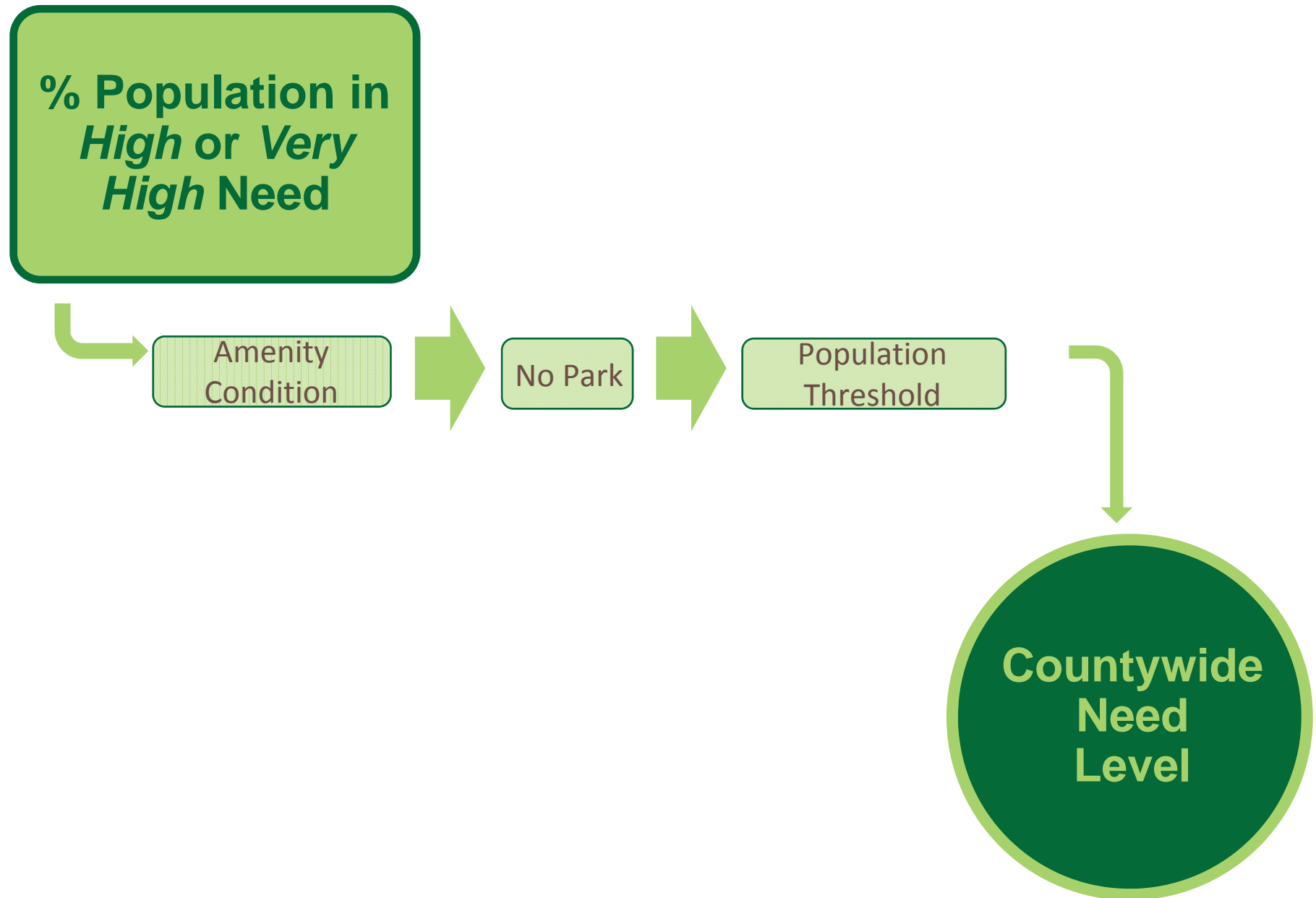


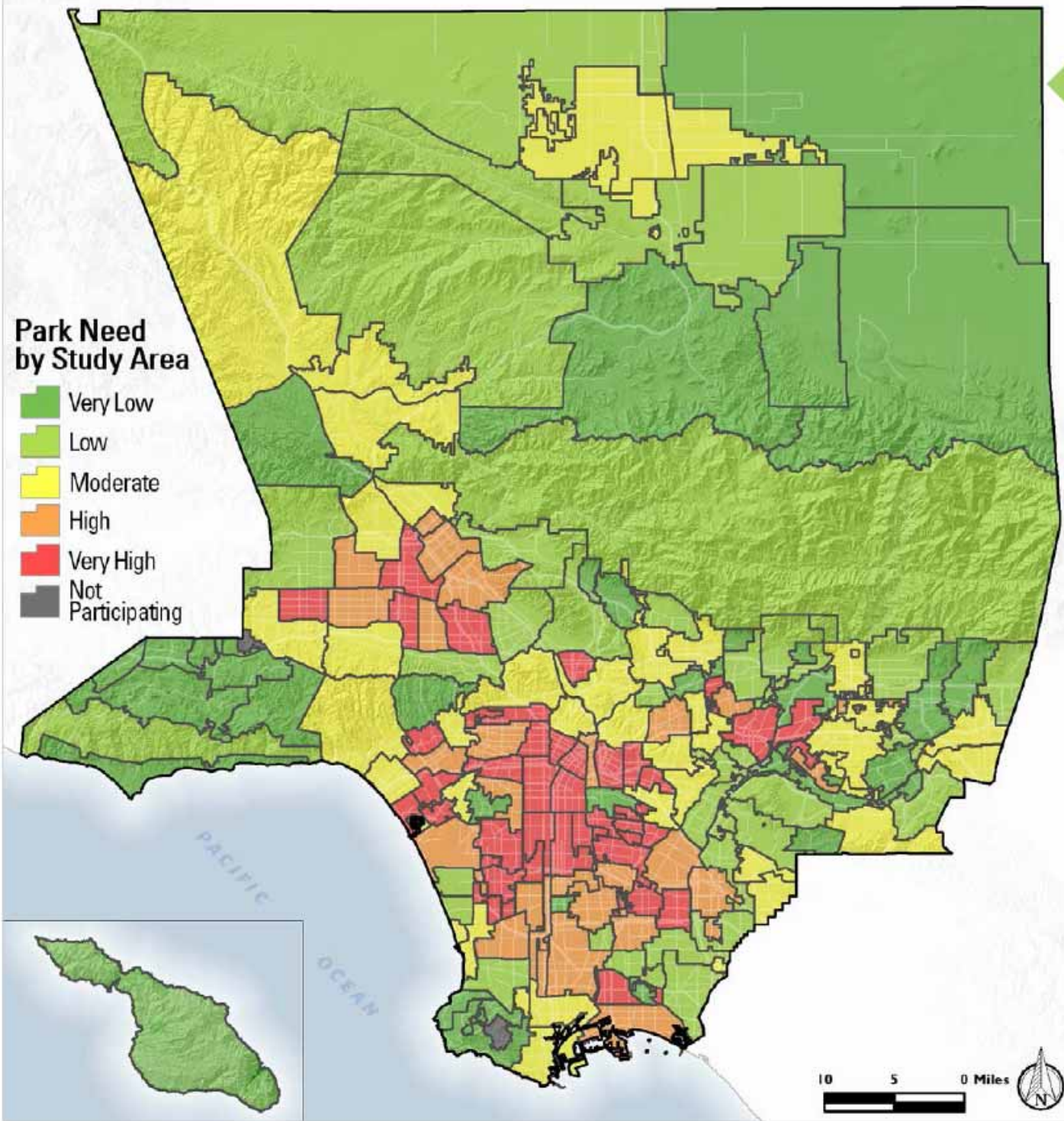
# Park Metrics

► *How much of the population has access to parks?*



# Countywide Need Level – Methodology

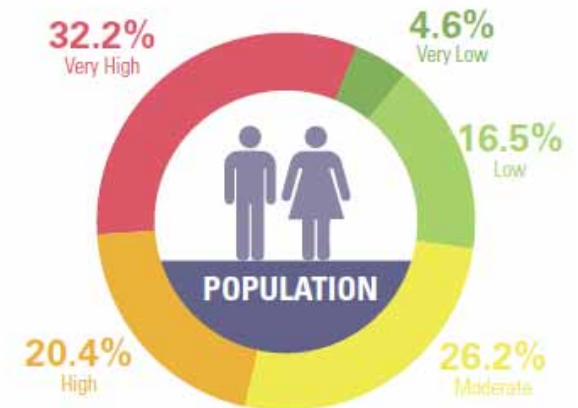




## PARK NEED

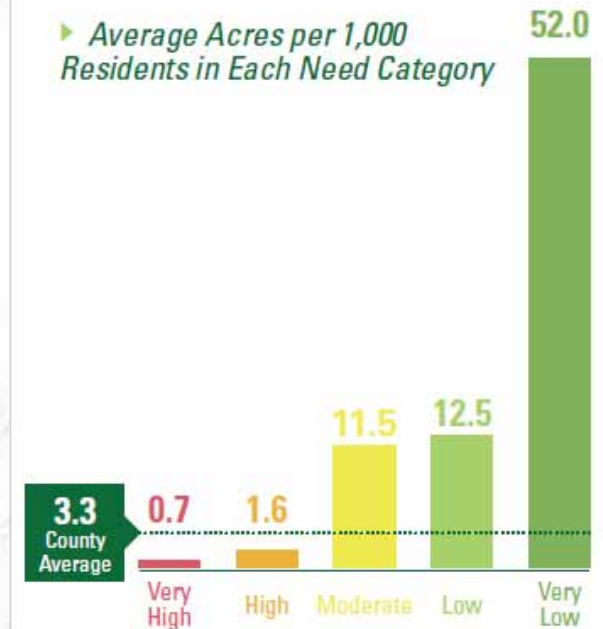
The results of the analysis of the five park metrics were combined to determine an overall park need level for each Study Area. This approach creates a framework for assessing park need from a Countywide perspective.

### Population in Each Need Category\*



\*0.1% Not Participating

### Average Acres per 1,000 Residents in Each Need Category





# Community Engagement Summary

- Workshops for 177 study areas held between December 2015 and February 2016
- Each meeting generated a list of 10 prioritized projects for the study area:
  - Participants reviewed park metrics for their study area, along with relevant community profile data
  - Participants helped generate a list of potential park projects
  - Participants prioritized 10 projects





# Prioritized Projects

- Nearly 4,000 projects in all were considered by meeting attendees
- 10 projects were prioritized in each study area, for a total of nearly 1,800 prioritized projects countywide

The image displays three overlapping 'POTENTIAL PROJECT FORM' cards, each featuring a green 'PARKS' logo in the top left corner. The forms are used for recording project information and prioritization.

**Top Form:**

- Type of Project:** (Check One) ☐ REPAIR EXISTING AMENITY ☒ ADD OR REPLACE AMENITY AT EXISTING PARK ☐ BUILD NEW PARK OR SPECIALTY FACILITY
- Project Name:** Dance Room
- Location:** Applepink Division
- Project Description:** Dance room with mirrors.
- Place Stickers Here:** A grid of 10 green circular stickers.
- TALLY:** 42

**Middle Form:**

- Type of Project:** (Check One) ☐ REPAIR EXISTING AMENITY ☐ ADD OR REPLACE AMENITY AT EXISTING PARK ☒ BUILD NEW PARK OR SPECIALTY FACILITY
- Project Name:** Soccer Complex
- Location:** AE
- Project Description:**
- Place Stickers Here:** A grid of 10 green circular stickers.
- TALLY:** 25

**Bottom Form:**

- Type of Project:** (Check One) ☐ REPAIR EXISTING AMENITY ☒ ADD OR REPLACE AMENITY AT EXISTING PARK ☐ NEW PARK OR SPECIALTY FACILITY
- Project Name:** Playground Equipment Replace
- Location:** Loma Vista Park
- Project Description:** remove old and install new playground equipment replacement
- Place Stickers Here:** A grid of 10 green circular stickers, with a circled '13' below them.
- TALLY:** 13

# Prioritized Projects

**46%** Projects to Repair or Replace Existing Amenities

**155**  
  
Infrastructure Projects

**60**  
  
Restroom Projects

**25**  
  
Community Center Projects

**34%** Projects to Add New Amenities to Existing Parks

**80**  
  
Community Center Projects

**75**  
  
Walking Path/Trail Projects

**60**  
  
Dog Park Projects

**20%** Projects for Constructing New Parks

 **200** New Park Projects

# Cost Estimate



# Board of Supervisors Meeting

- On **May 3, 2016**, the County Board of Supervisors was presented with:
  - The executive summary of the Countywide Park Needs Assessment
  - A report on the potential park funding measure



Mark Ridley-Thomas

Hilda L. Solis

Michael D. Antonovich

Sheila Kuehl

Don Knabe



# Potential Park Funding Ballot Measure (2016)

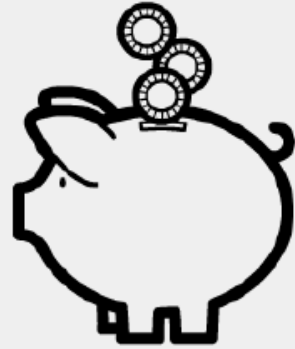
- The development of the potential park funding measure was kickstarted in August 2015 when **Supervisors Hilda Solis and Sheila Kuehl** introduced a motion to:
  - Identify current park and recreation funding sources
  - Recommend a mechanism and expenditure framework to fund future park and recreation projects



# WHAT WILL THE POTENTIAL LOCAL FUNDING MEASURE DO?

## Renew

expiring, dedicated  
local funding



## Protect local water *resources*



## Create **SAFE**

play areas  
and *reduce* gang  
activity



## Create and maintain

neighborhood  
and city **parks**



## HOW MUCH REVENUE WILL THE TAX GENERATE?

*if the rate is...*

**\$0.05** PER SQUARE FOOT (SF) OF  
DEVELOPED PROPERTY  
PER YEAR



**\$309,000,000 ANNUALLY**



## SAMPLE PROPERTY TAX

For example, if you have a 1,500 SF house, your annual tax at \$0.05/SF will be \$75/year.\*



\***Exemptions** available for *low income seniors*.





## HOW MUCH REVENUE WILL THE TAX GENERATE?

*if the rate is...*

**\$0.03** PER SQUARE FOOT (SF) OF  
DEVELOPED PROPERTY  
PER YEAR



***\$189,000,000 ANNUALLY***



## SAMPLE PROPERTY TAX

For example, if you have a 1,500 SF house, your annual tax at \$0.03/SF will be \$45/year.\*



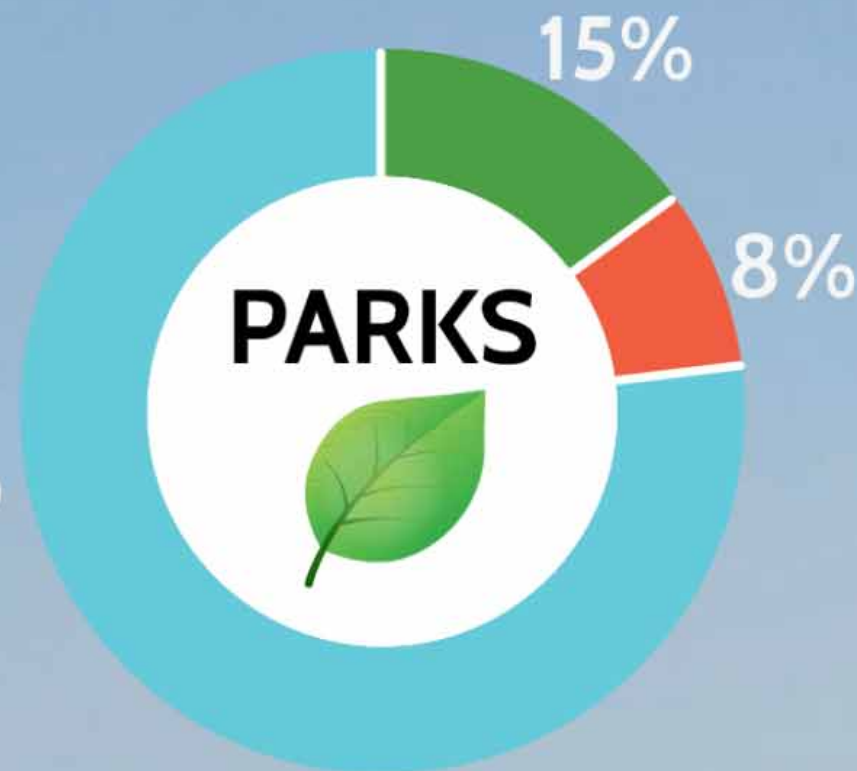
\***Exemptions** available for *low income seniors*.








# REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND IMPLEMENTATION

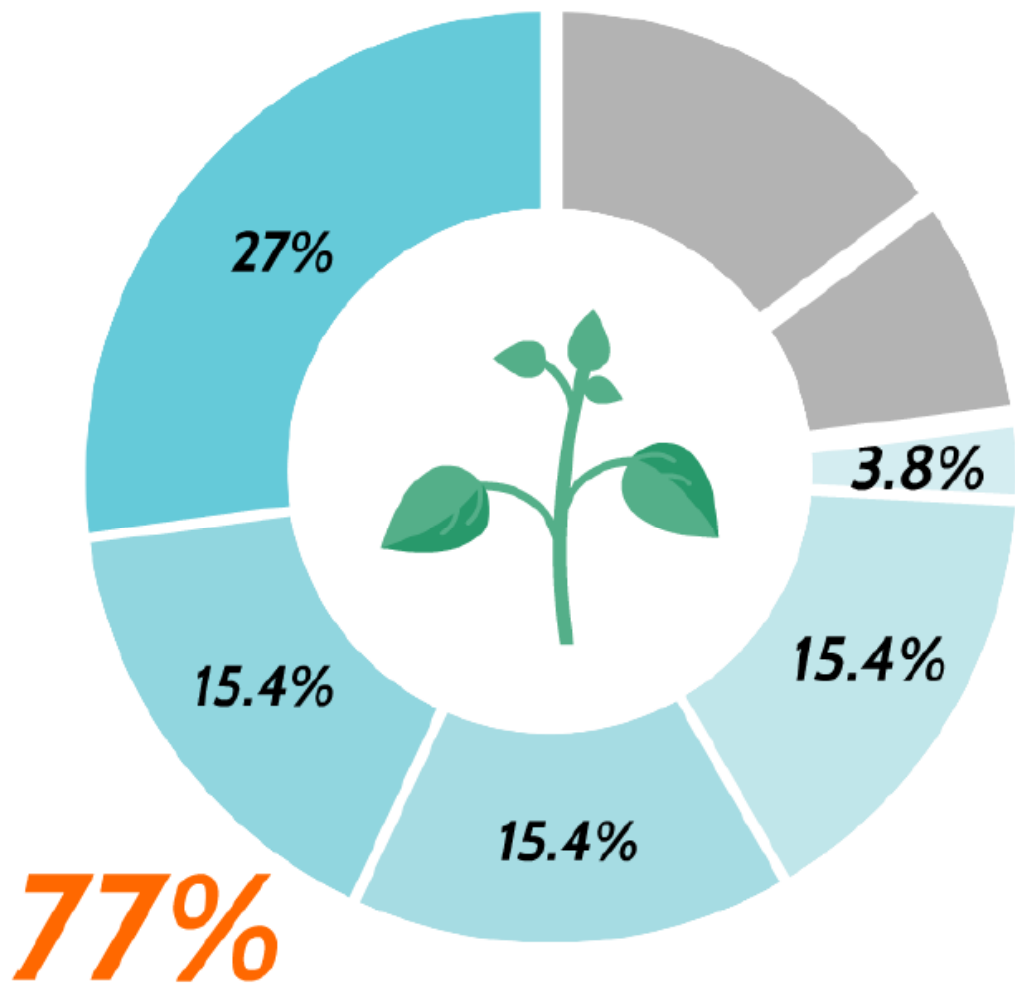
- 77% of revenue will be used for **Projects** prioritizing those identified in the **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**.
- 15% of revenue will be set aside for **Maintenance and Servicing** of grant funded projects.
- Remaining 8% will be made available for **Program Implementation, Innovation, and Oversight**.

77%



# GRANT FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

-  **27%** - COMMUNITY BASED PARK INVESTMENT PROGRAM
-  **15.4%** - SAFE PARKS, REPAIRS AND UPGRADES, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, URBAN GREENING PROGRAM
-  **15.4%** - PROTECTING OPEN SPACES, BEACHES AND WATERSHED PROGRAM
-  **15.4%** - REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, TRAIL AND ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM
-  **3.8%** - YOUTH AND VETERAN TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM






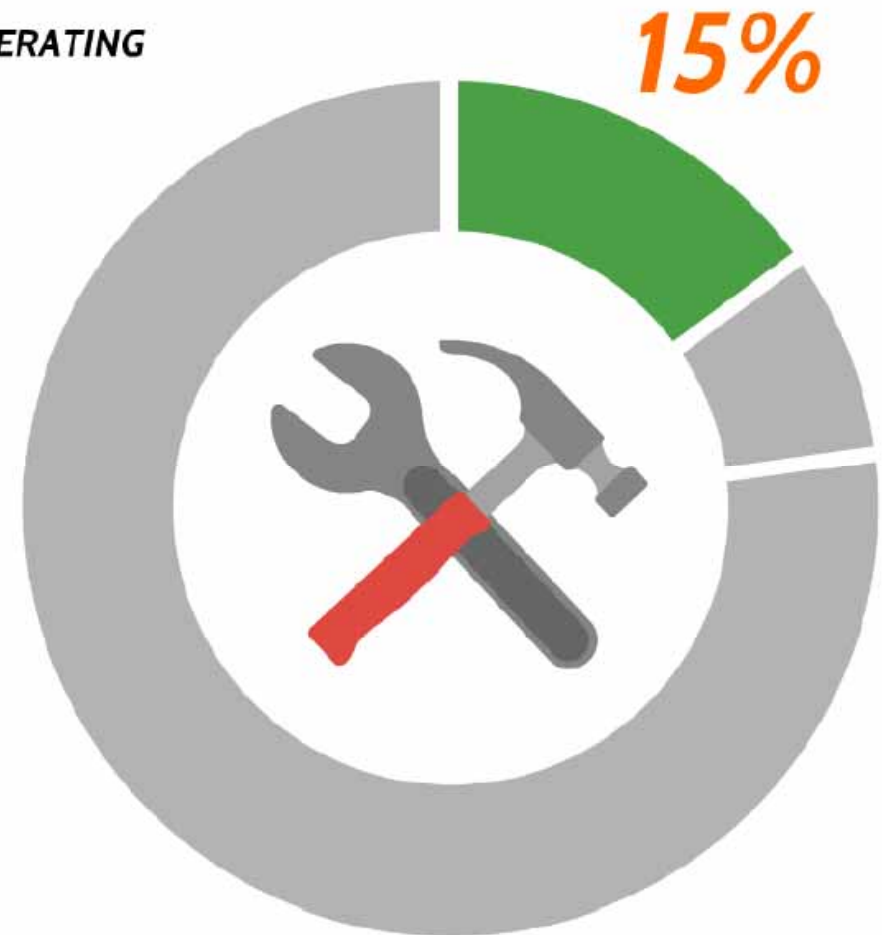


# MAINTENANCE & SERVICING

FUNDS DIRECTLY TO CITIES, COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, LOCAL AGENCIES AND NON-PROFITS, THROUGH AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS FROM THE RPOSD.

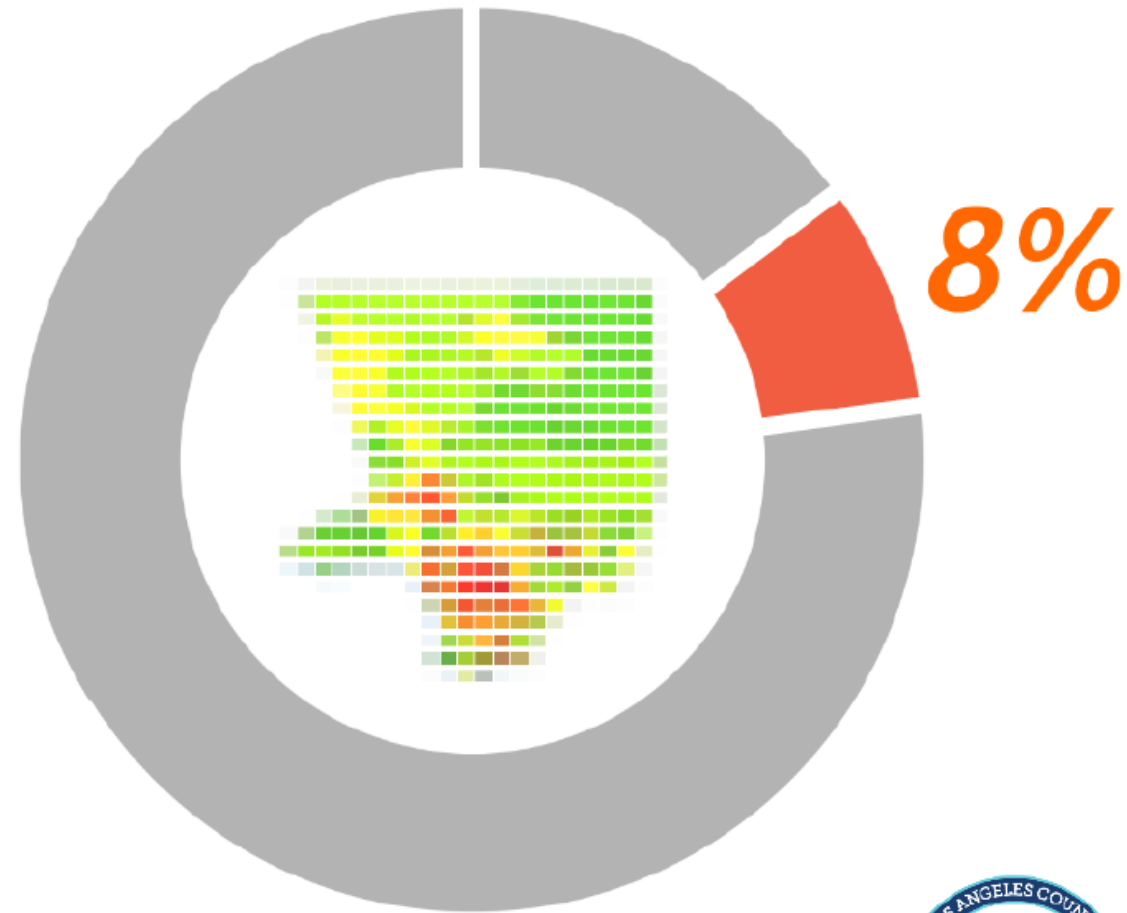
THESE FUNDS OFFSET INCREASED COSTS OF MAINTAINING AND OPERATING GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS.

-  **51% - CITIES**
-  **29% - COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**
-  **20% - LOCAL AGENCIES & COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS**



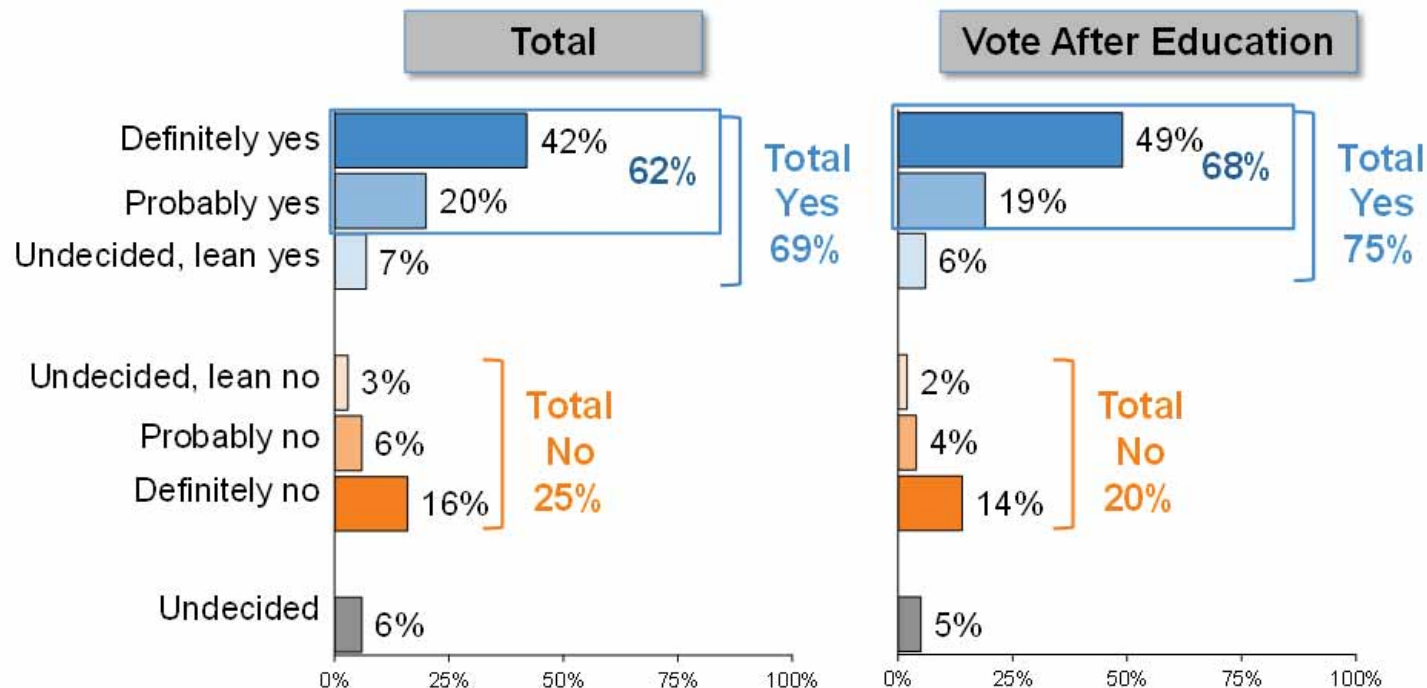
# ***PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION, INNOVATION, & OVERSIGHT***

- ✓ **STRATEGIC PLANNING**
- ✓ **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
- ✓ **NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATES**
- ✓ **INNOVATIVE ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES**
- ✓ **OPERATIONS OF THE RPOSD**



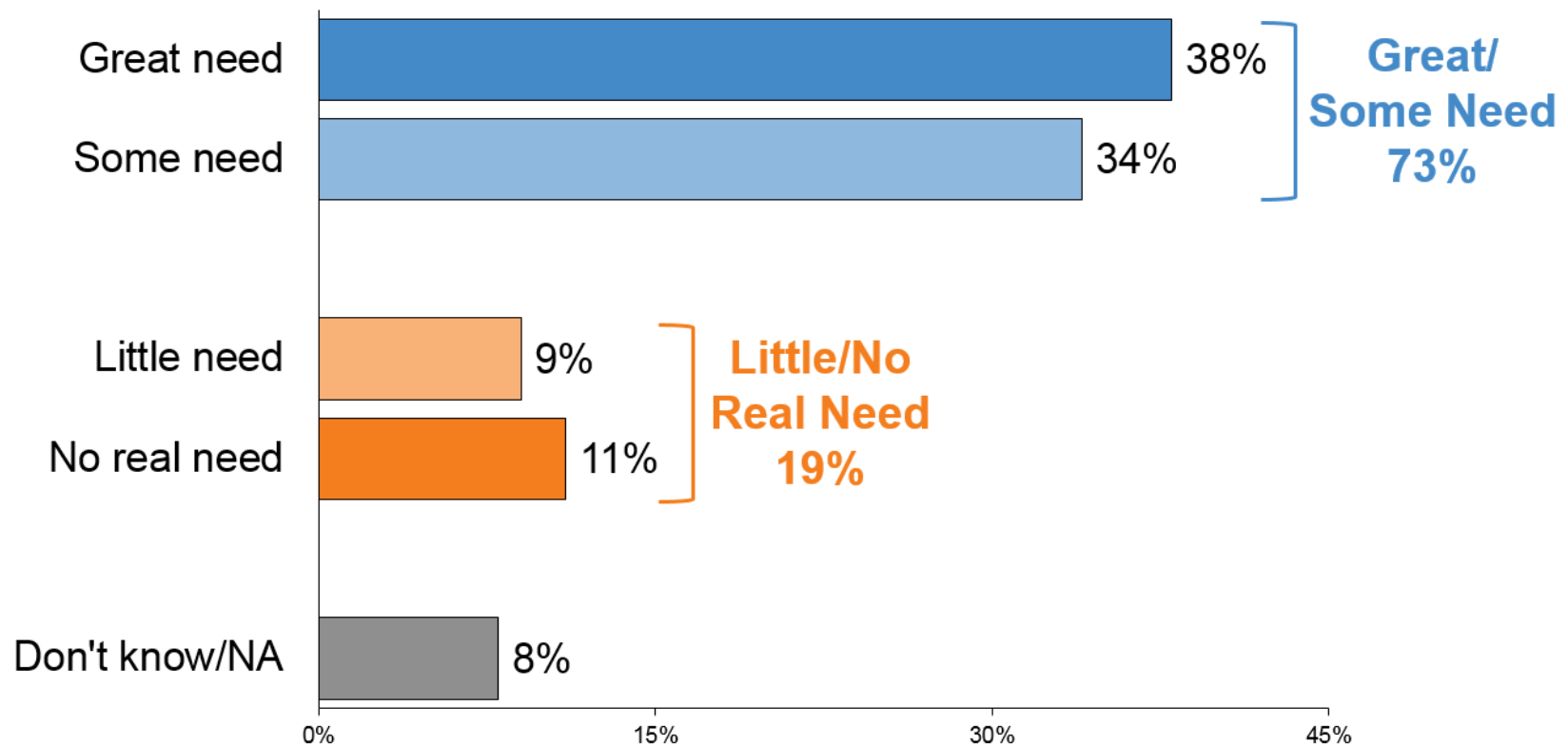
# Support for Local Park Funding

- Polling conducted in December 2015 indicates strong support for local park funding.
- Overall, **69%** of likely voters would initially vote YES in favor of a park funding ballot measure. That number jumps to **75%** after voters were educated about the ballot measure.



# Support for Local Park Funding

- Roughly 3 out of 4 voters perceive a need for additional funding for parks and recreation, with more than half of those saying GREAT NEED.





# Next Steps

- On **June 21, 2016**, the County Board of Supervisors will review and take action on the potential park funding measure.
- This action will determine whether the measure is placed on the **November 2016** ballot.



Mark Ridley-Thomas

Hilda L. Solis

Michael D. Antonovich

Sheila Kuehl

Don Knabe

# Additional Resources

- The final report of the Countywide Park Needs Assessment is available at:  
<http://lacountyparkneeds.org>
- The report on the potential park funding measure is available at:  
<http://file.lacounty.gov/bos/supdocs/103452.pdf>
- For more information about Prop A and the potential park funding measure, visit the LA County Regional Park and Open Space District website:  
<http://rposd.lacounty.gov>



**Questions?**

we all need  
**PARKS**  
for healthy, thriving and engaged communities

**Thank you!**

